GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1844
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2001
ENERGISATION OF IRRIGATION PUMPSETS
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are implementing programme of energisation of irrigation pumpsets in the rural areas in Maharashtra during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the target set and achievement made so far in this regard;

(c) the total funds allocated/released for this purpose during the Ninth Plan;

(d) whether this scheme has shown encouraging results during the Eighth-Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to allocate more funds for this scheme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (c) : The priorities and targets for carrying out pumpsets energisation programmes are determined by the State Governments concerned depending upon the availability of financial resources. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides loan assistance for rural electrification programme including pumpsets energisation to the State Governments/State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities. During the Ninth Plan (up to March, 2000), REC has disbursed Rs. 171.67 crores to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) for energisation of pumpsets. Besides, a sum of Rs. 11 crores has also been allocated by REC during the financial year 2000-01 for implementation of MSEB`s rural electrification programme. According to information available with CEA, during Ninth Plan upto November, 2000, 205902 pumpsets have been energized in Maharashtra.

(d) : During Eighth Five Year Plan 388557 pumpsets were energized against the target of 1,88,000 pumpsets (four years` target) in Maharashtra State since the target for pumpsets energisation for the year 1996-97 was not finalized by the Planning Commission.

(e) : From the year 2000-01, the Government has decided to release funds under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) directly to the States instead of the earlier practice of being routed through REC. The Government has also envisaged to provide funds for augmentation of distribution networks in rural areas under the Accelerated Power Development Programme. The programme of pumpsets energisation is implemented by the SEBs/State Governments from their own resources and partly out of loans extended by REC which provides finance against eligible projects. The resources of REC are proposed to be augmented by enabling REC to access cheaper sources of funds.